

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12, 24 and 30 as follows.

1 - 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, wherein the helical portion comprises an increased amount of stent forming material relative to the amount of stent forming material in portions of the stent adjacent to the helical portion.

4. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, wherein the helical portion comprises structural members having bent portions which resist unbending during expansion of the stent more than a portion of the stent adjacent to the helical portion.

5. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, being a self-expanding stent.

6. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, being a balloon expandable stent.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12 wherein the stent is a balloon expandable stent in combination with a balloon for expanding the stent, the

balloon having an expandable wall, the wall having a helical portion which in the expanded condition extends longitudinally and circumferentially, and which, upon expansion of the balloon from the collapsed condition to the expanded condition, resists extension more than portions of the wall adjacent to the helical portion.

10. (Original) A stent as claimed in claim 9, wherein the helical portion of the balloon expandable wall has a wall thickness greater than that of adjacent wall portions.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A stent for insertion in a fluid conduit of a human or animal body when the stent is in a collapsed condition and for expansion to an expanded condition, ~~wherein in the expanded condition the stent causes~~comprising:
an outer wall for engagement with the fluid conduit and, when the stent is in the expanded condition in the fluid conduit, for causing the fluid conduit to have a flow lumen having a centre line which follows a substantially helical path, the outer wall defining an internal diameter of the stent, wherein the stent when expanded *ex vivo* has a helix angle less than or equal to 65° and a helical center line having an amplitude less than or equal to 0.7 of the internal diameter of the stent; and, wherein the stent, in the expanded condition, is substantially free of ribs which would project into the flow lumen of the conduit; and

~~wherein the stent comprises an outer wall for engagement with the conduit, the~~ outer wall having a helical portion which in the expanded condition extends longitudinally and circumferentially, and which, upon expansion of the stent from the collapsed condition to the expanded condition, resists extension more than portions of the stent adjacent to the helical portion; and

wherein the helical center line of the flow lumen and the helical portion have substantially equal pitches when the stent is expanded.

13. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, wherein the amplitude of the helical centre line of the stent divided by the internal diameter of the stent is at least 0.05.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, wherein the helix angle is less than or equal to 15° .

16. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, wherein the flow lumen of the stented conduit is of substantially circular cross-section.

17. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, wherein the helical centre line of the stented conduit extends over just part of the overall length of the stent.

18. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, wherein the helical centre line of the stented conduit extends over substantially the entire length of the stent.

19. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, wherein the centre line of the stent follows a substantially helical path about an axis which is curved.

20. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12, comprising a pharmaceutical coating.

21. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12 wherein the amplitude of the helical center line of the stent divided by the internal diameter of the stent is at least 0.1.

22. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 1 wherein the stent undergoes at least one turn of the helix.

23. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 12 wherein the helical portion has the same number of turns both when the stent is collapsed and when it is expanded.

24. (Currently Amended) A stent for insertion in a fluid conduit of a human or animal body when the stent is in a collapsed condition and for expansion to an expanded condition, the stent comprising:

an outer wall for engagement with the fluid conduit, the outer wall defining an internal diameter of the stent, wherein in the expanded condition the stent has a center line which follows a substantially helical path, so as to promote a swirl flow effect within the fluid conduit supported by the stent, and wherein the stent when expanded *ex vivo* has a helix angle less than or equal to 65° and a helical center line having an amplitude less than or equal to 0.7 of the internal diameter of the stent;₁

wherein the stent, in ~~an~~ the expanded condition, is substantially free of ribs which would project into the flow lumen of the conduit;₂ and

wherein the helix angle and/or amplitude of the helical center line varies along the length of the stent so as to introduce a swirl flow effect at an upstream end of the stent and to increase the swirl flow effect in a downstream direction.

25 - 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A stent as claimed in claim 24, wherein the amplitude and the pitch of the helical center line vary along the length of the stent.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A stent for insertion in a fluid conduit of a human or animal body when the stent is in a collapsed condition and for expansion to an expanded condition, wherein in the expanded condition the stent causes the fluid conduit to have a flow lumen having a center line which follows a substantially helical path, the stent comprising:

an outer wall for engagement with an associated fluid conduit, wherein the outer wall in the expanded condition follows a substantially helical path so as to promote a swirl flow effect within the associated conduit, and wherein the stent, in the expanded condition is substantially free of ribs which would project into the flow lumen of the conduit; and,

a helical portion integral with the outer wall wherein in the expanded condition of the stent the helical portion extends longitudinally and circumferentially on the outer wall, and wherein in the expanded condition of the stent, the helical portion resists extension more than a remainder of the outer wall.

31. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 30, wherein the outer wall comprises a plurality of strands.

32. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 31, wherein the helical portion comprises at least one strand.

33. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 32, wherein the at least one strand is woven in a mesh of the plurality of strands of the outer wall.